

Focus Area 3: Melanoma Cancer

Objective 3-8 targets an overall reduction in the melanoma cancer death rate to 2.5 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for malignant melanoma were 2.5 per 100,000 population in 2000 and in 2001, 2.4 in 2002, and 2.6 in 2003 (Figure 3-8, Table 3-8). California's melanoma cancer death rates have fluctuated slightly at the HP2010 target of 2.5 per 100,000 population during the 2000-2003 period.

California data by race and ethnicity show that Whites had the highest age-adjusted melanoma cancer death rates: 3.6 per 100,000 in 2000; 3.7 in 2001; 3.6 in 2002; and 3.8 in 2003. These rates were significantly higher than both the HP2010 objective and the overall statewide rate. The next highest reliable melanoma cancer death rates were reported for Hispanics/Latinos (0.9 per 100,000 in 2000, 0.7 in 2001, and 0.8 in 2002 and 2003). Death rates for African Americans/Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported. No melanoma cancer deaths were reported for American Indians/Alaska Natives in 2000 and 2001, nor for "Multirace" persons in any year from 2000-2002.

Age-adjusted melanoma cancer death rates for males were significantly higher than rates for females, and also significantly higher than the HP2010 target. The melanoma cancer death rates for males were 3.6 per 100,000 in 2000, 3.7 in 2001, 3.4 in 2002, and 3.9 in 2003, compared with 1.8 per 100,000 for females in 2000, and 1.6 in 2001, 2002, and 2003. This HP2010 objective is being achieved for females, but not for males.

For more information on melanoma cancer (malignant melanoma) in California, visit the California Cancer Registry Web site at:

<http://www.ccrca.org/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 3-8, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume1/03Cancer.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od03.htm>

Figure 3-8
Melanoma Cancer Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

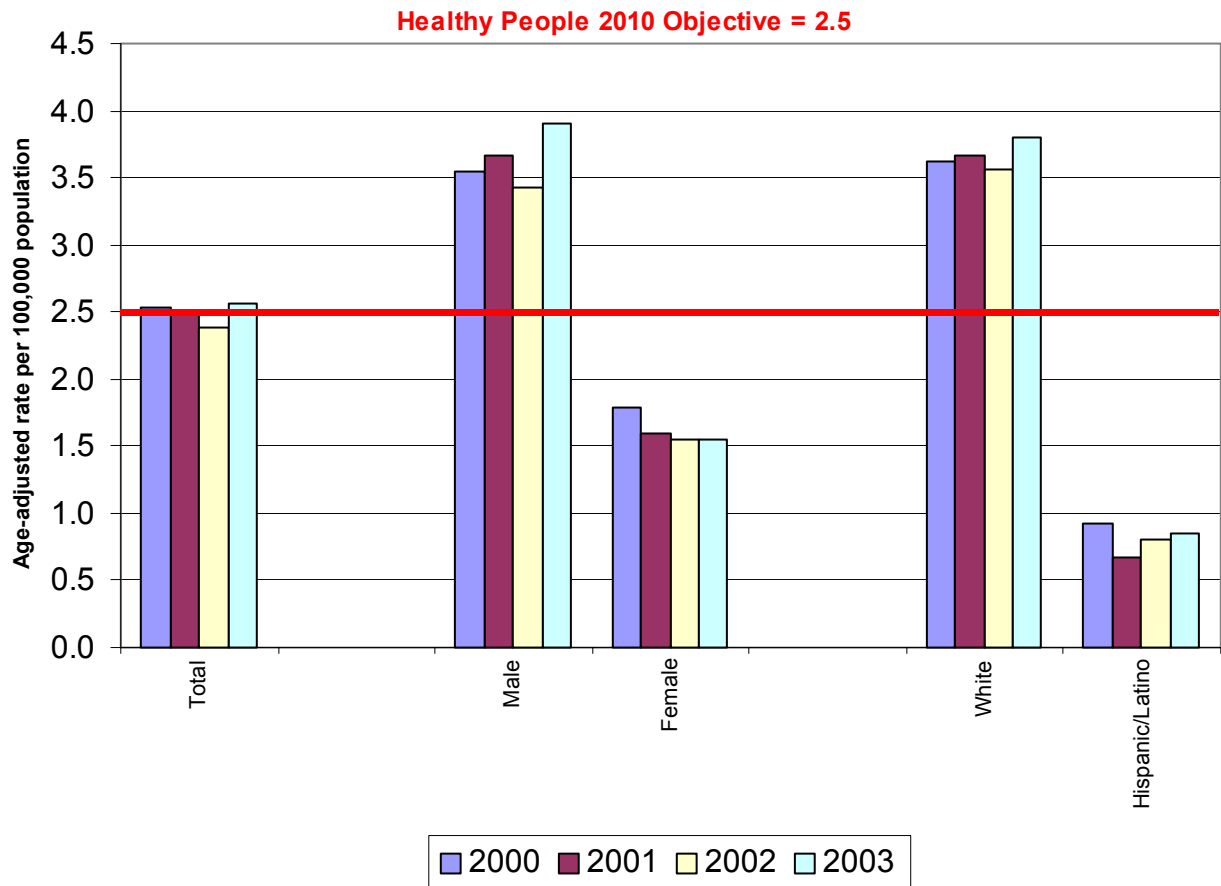


Table 3-8
Melanoma Cancer Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

	2000		Lower	Upper	2001		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		2.5				2.5		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	764	2.5	2.4	2.7	777	2.5	2.3	2.7
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	5	DSU	-----	-----	2	DSU	-----	-----
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	9	DSU	-----	-----	7	DSU	-----	-----
Hispanic/Latino	48	0.9	0.6	1.2	41	0.7	0.4	0.9
Pacific Islander	1	DSU	-----	-----	1	DSU	-----	-----
White	700	3.6	3.4	3.9	726	3.7	3.4	3.9
Multirace	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gender								
Female	297	1.8	1.6	2.0	274	1.6	1.4	1.8
Male	467	3.6	3.2	3.9	503	3.7	3.3	4.0

	2002		Lower	Upper	2003		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		2.5				2.5		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	775	2.4	2.2	2.6	856	2.6	2.4	2.7
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	7	DSU	-----	-----	7	DSU	-----	-----
American Indian	1	DSU	-----	-----	2	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	13	DSU	-----	-----	8	DSU	-----	-----
Hispanic/Latino	43	0.8	0.6	1.1	50	0.8	0.6	1.1
Pacific Islander	1	DSU	-----	-----	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
White	710	3.6	3.3	3.8	785	3.8	3.5	4.1
Multirace	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	277	1.6	1.4	1.7	283	1.6	1.4	1.7
Male	498	3.4	3.1	3.7	573	3.9	3.6	4.2

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2003; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2030, May 2004.

NOTES: Melanoma cancer deaths defined by ICD-10 code C43.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard; excludes death records with unknown ages.

DSU = Data Statistically Unreliable based on small number of events.